

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~Alloy~~ Anti-friction coating as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 12, wherein the mean particle size of the dispersed soft phase (3) and/or hard phase (5) is 1 μ m to 100 μ m, preferably 5 μ m to 20 μ m.

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~Alloy~~ Anti-friction coating as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 12, wherein the region of the phase boundary (4) in which the solid solution or bond is formed has an average thickness in the range of between 0.1 μ m and 3 μ m, preferably between 0.5 μ m and 2.5 μ m.

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~Alloy~~ Anti-friction coating as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 12, wherein the matrix element is selected from a group comprising aluminium, chromium, copper, magnesium, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, silicon, tin, titanium, tungsten

and zinc, and the soft phase element is different from the matrix element.

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~Alloy~~ Anti-friction coating as claimed in claim 4, wherein the proportion of matrix element is at least 55 % by weight, in particular at least 65 % by weight.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~Alloy~~ Anti-friction coating as claimed in claim ~~4~~ 12, wherein the soft phase (3) is at least one element selected from an element group comprising silver, aluminium, gold, bismuth, carbon (graphite), calcium, copper, indium, magnesium, lead, palladium, platinum, scandium, tin, yttrium, zinc and lanthanoids, and the soft phase element is different from the matrix element.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~Alloy~~ Anti-friction coating as claimed in claim ~~4~~ 12, wherein the soft phase (3) is selected from a group comprising MoS₂, PTFE, silicone, barium sulphate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~Alloy~~ Anti-friction coating as

claimed in claim 6, wherein the proportion of soft phase is in the range of between 10 % by weight and 45 % by weight, in particular between 15 % by weight and 35 % by weight.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~Alloy~~ Anti-friction coating as claimed in claim ~~±~~ 12, wherein the hard phase (5) is at least one element selected from an element group comprising boron, carbon (diamond), cobalt, hafnium, iridium, molybdenum, niobium, osmium, rhenium, rhodium, ruthenium, silicon, tantalum, tungsten and zirconium, and the hard phase element is different from the matrix element.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~Alloy~~ Anti-friction coating as claimed in claim ~~±~~ 12, wherein the hard phase (5) is selected from a group comprising ZnS_2 , BN, WS_2 , carbides such as for example SiC, WC, B_4C , oxides, such as for example MgO, TiO_2 , ZrO_2 , Al_2O_3 , and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~Alloy~~ Anti-friction coating as claimed in claim 9, wherein the proportion of hard phase is in the range of between 3 % by weight and 25 % by weight, in

particular between 5 % by weight and 20 % by weight.

Claim 12 (currently amended): Anti-friction coating produced by means of a cold gas spraying process, in particular a bearing anti-friction coating, made from an alloy, wherein the alloy ~~is as claimed in claim 1~~ comprises elements which form a matrix (2) and at least a soft phase (3) and/or a hard phase (5), which soft phase elements and/or hard phase elements form a solid solution or a bond with the matrix element, wherein the soft phase (3) and/or the hard phase (5) is dispersed in the matrix (2) and the solid solution or bond is formed only in the region of the phase boundary (4) of the matrix (2) with the soft phase (3) and/or with the hard phase (5).

Claim 13 (original): Composite material comprising at least a first peripheral coating (8) and a second peripheral coating (9) disposed on top of it, for example a supporting layer made from steel, in particular for anti-friction bearings or thrust washers, wherein the first peripheral coating (8) is formed by an anti-friction coating as claimed in claim 12.

Claim 14 (original): Composite material as claimed in claim 13, wherein an additional coating is provided between the first peripheral coating (8) and the second peripheral coating (9) in the form of a diffusion barrier or adhesion coating.

Claim 15 (currently amended): Method of producing a composite material comprising at least a first peripheral coating (8) and a second peripheral coating (9) disposed on top of it, in particular for anti-friction bearings or thrust washers, wherein an alloy ~~as claimed in claim 10~~ comprising elements which form a matrix (2) and at least a soft phase (3) and/or a hard phase (5), which soft phase elements and/or hard phase elements form a solid solution or a bond with the matrix element, wherein the soft phase (3) and/or the hard phase (5) is dispersed in the matrix (2) and the solid solution or bond is formed only in the region of the phase boundary (4) of the matrix (2) with the soft phase (3) and/or with the hard phase (5) is produced as a first peripheral coating (8) by means of a cold gas spraying process.

Claim 16 (original): Method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the second peripheral coating (9) is formed by a supporting

layer, made from steel for example, and the first peripheral coating (8) is sprayed on top of it.

Claim 17 (previously presented): Method as claimed in claim 15, wherein an additional coating is provided between the first peripheral coating (8) and the second peripheral coating (9) in the form of a diffusion barrier or adhesion coating and it is sprayed on top of the second peripheral coating (9).

Claim 18 (previously presented): Method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the process gas is selected from a group comprising helium, argon, nitrogen, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (original): Method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the gas temperature is selected from a range of between 60% and 95 % of the melting temperature of the alloy element with the lowest melting temperature.

Claim 20 (original): Method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the gas temperature is selected from a range of between 65% and

90%, preferably between 70% and 85%, of the melting temperature of the alloy element with the lowest melting temperature.

Claim 21 (original): Method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the gas temperature is selected from a range of between 95% and 130% of the melting temperature of the alloy element with the lowest melting temperature.

Claim 22 (previously presented): Method as claimed in claim 15, wherein a separate cold gas spraying system is provided for each alloy element used and for each phase.

Claim 23 (previously presented): Method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the initial powder used for spraying has a particle diameter in the range of from 3 μm to 70 μm , preferably from 5 μm to 55 μm .

Claims 24-26 (canceled).

ELECTION OF INVENTION:

The Patent Examiner has required the selection of one of the following four (4) groups of inventions for further prosecution:

Group I: Claims 1-11, drawn to an alloy composition;

Group II: Claims 12-14, drawn to a coated article;

Group III: Claims 15-23, drawn to a method of forming a coated article; and

Group IV: Claims 24-26, drawn to a use of an alloy composition which does not recite any active method steps.

ELECTION:

Applicants respectfully elect, with traverse, for further prosecution, Group II, claims 12-14, and also amended claims 2-11, drawn to an anti-friction coating for further prosecution. Applicants also respectfully submit that method claims 15-23 as amended herein should likewise be considered along with the Group II claims directed to a coated article.